

REMARKS

The foregoing Amendment and Remarks which follow are responsive to the Final Office Action mailed August 30, 2010 and the Advisory Action dated December 8, 2010 in relation to the above-identified patent application. In response thereto, applicant submits this Amendment and a Request for Continued Examination to further prosecution of the present patent application.

In Final Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Ochi et al. reference (U.S. Patent No. 6,149,713).

Independent Claim 1 is Not Rendered Obvious by the Ochi Reference

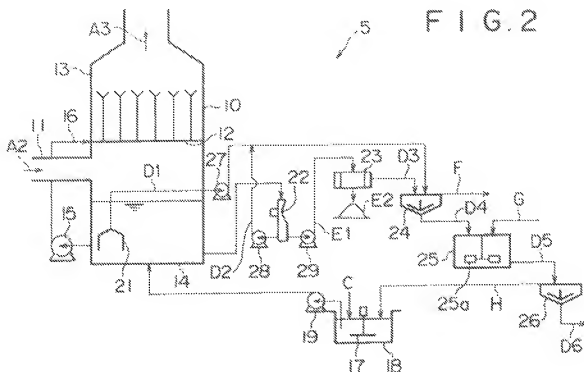
The amendments made to Claim 1 are directed toward more accurately reciting the features and functions of the wet dust collector. In particular, the wet dust collector receives fine particles and cement kiln exhaust gas from the separating means and separates the fine particles from the gas. The fine particles include calcium oxide, which reacts with the water in the wet dust collector to generate calcium hydroxide. The resultant calcium hydroxide reacts with sulfur dioxide in the bleed gas to remove sulfur from the bleed gas.

In this regard, the absorbent (i.e., calcium hydroxide) is generated locally within the wet dust collector and is not supplied from an external source. The wet dust collector is configured to utilize the byproducts/exhaust of the cement kiln to produce the absorbent within the wet dust collector. As such, the system does not require a storage tank for the absorbent, or a delivery system for delivering the absorbent to the wet dust collector. Consequently, the system recited in Claim 1 may be more efficient and compact than prior art systems.

Applicant respectfully submits that at least these features of independent Claim 1 are not taught or suggested by the cited Ochi et al. reference.

As understood, the Ochi et al. reference relates to a flue gas treating process which extracts and discharges dust (fly ash) and sulfur dioxide from the flue gas of a coal-fired boiler. Untreated flue gas discharged from a coal-fired boiler undergoes a two-step cooling process, wherein the gas is first cooled to 120-160°C, and is subsequently cooled to 80-110°C. After being cooled, the flue gas is introduced into a dry electrostatic precipitator, wherein dust is removed from the flue gas. The flue gas leaves the electrostatic precipitator

and is received by a combined type desulfurizer where sulfur dioxide is removed by absorption, and dust is also captured and removed. Figure 2 of the Ochi et al. reference is reproduced below, and shows a schematic diagram of the desulfurizer.



The desulfurizer 5 has an absorption tower 10 for brining flue gas A2 into gas-liquid contact with slurry containing limestone C, which acts as the absorbent. The slurry containing the limestone C is formed in a slurry preparation tank 18 and is supplied to the tank 14 separately from the flue gas A2.

It is clear from Figure 2 that the Ochi et al. reference does not teach or suggest using the components of the exhausted gas/particles to generate an absorbent within the desulfurizer. Rather, the Ochi et al. reference teaches preparation of the slurry absorbent at a location external to the desulfurizer. In this regard, the system disclosed in the Ochi et al. reference does not utilize the components with the flue gas to create a sulfur removing absorbent. Instead, the slurry/absorbent is generated without the flue gas at a location external to the desulfurizer.

Therefore, Applicant submits that the Ochi et al. reference does not render obvious the system recited in Claim 1. As such, Claim 1 is believed to be allowable, as are all claims depending therefrom.

Independent Claims 7 and 12 are Not Rendered Obvious by the Ochi et al. Reference

Independent Claims 7 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Ochi et al. reference.

Independent Claims 7 and 12 have been amended in a manner similar to Claim 1 to more accurately recite the configuration and function of the wet dust collector. Therefore, to the extent that independent Claims 7 and 12 are similar to independent Claim 1 discussed above, Applicant submits that the Ochi et al. reference is deficient for the reasons advanced above in relation to Claim 1.

Therefore, the Ochi et al. reference does not teach, suggest or make obvious all of the limitations of independent Claims 7 and 12. Thus, Claims 7 and 12 are believed to be allowable, as are all claims depending therefrom.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Entry of the amendments and issuance of a Notice of Allowance is therefore respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any suggestions for expediting allowance of the application, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.


If any additional fees are due, please charge Deposit Account 19-4330.

Date: 12/27/10

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Respectfully submitted,

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